

Welcome to the “National Crime Victimization Survey Knowledge Corner.” This short video will focus on the National Crime Victimization Survey API, or NCVS API. The webpage to access information about the NCVS API can be found from the BJS web by selecting the Data Menu, Data Analysis Tools, and scrolling down to the National Crime Victimization Survey Application Programming Interface section, and click in the Resource Link

The NCVS API is available through the Socrata Open Data API or SODA API. It is a RESTful web service that gives users the ability to download shortened modified versions of the NCVS public use files.

These datasets are called NCVS Select datasets and they contain commonly used variables with user-friendly categories from the full NCVS public use files. NCVS Select datasets include records from 1993 to the present. There are four types of NCVS Select files available through the NCVS API: the Personal Population file, the Personal Victimization file, the Household Population file, and the Household Property Victimization file.

There are two codebooks that explain what is included in the NCVS Select datasets. The NCVS Select Person Level Codebook provides information about the Personal Population file and Personal Victimization file. The NCVS Select Household Level Codebook provides information about the Household Population file and the Household Property Victimization file.

Here is the NCVS Select Person Level Codebook [*opens codebook*]

To access data from an NCVS Select dataset through the NCVS API, your query must include an endpoint, desired format and other parameters such as specific variables or cases that meet certain conditions. The endpoint consists of the base URL and the database identifier. The base URL for the NCVS API is <https://data.ojp.usdoj.gov/resource/> There are four dataset identifiers, one for each type of NCVS Select dataset. This results in four endpoints in the NCVS API. The NCVS Select datasets are available in three formats: CSV, XML, and JSON, with JSON being the default format. The default maximum number of cases to download from the API is 1,000 cases. Please refer to the Record counts links to determine the maximum number cases needed for your desired query.

Examples of queries that can be used to access the NCVS API are on the NCVS API webpage at the bottom.

For additional information on the NCVS API, please see this webpage. If the NCVS Select datasets do not contain a variable you are looking for, you can access the complete NCVS public-use data files at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. For more information about the NCVS, see the NCVS Data Collection page on the BJS website. Please email [askbjs@usdoj.gov](mailto:askbjs@usdoj.gov) with any questions and your email will be forwarded to BJS statisticians with topical experience.

Thank you.